

Appl. No. 09/683,667
Amdt. dated March 13, 2006
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of printing from a computing device, said method comprising:
 - sending a print task to a local print system component;
 - ~~acquiring, with said local print system component, printer data for at least one printer~~ a plurality of printers in communication with a remote print system component ~~using said local print system component;~~
 - ~~automatically selecting, with said local print system component, at least one of said at least one printer~~ plurality of printers by comparing said printer data with parameters of said print task;
 - sending said print task to a said remote print system component; and
 - sending said print task, from said remote print system component, to at least one of said ~~at least one printer~~ plurality of printers in communication with said remote print system component for printing.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said local print system component is a spooler.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said local print system component is a print processor.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said remote print system component is a spooler.

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5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said remote print system component is a print processor.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising reconfiguring said print task according to said printing data related to said print task.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said reconfiguring is performed via said local print system component.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said reconfiguring is performed via said remote print system component.

9. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said reconfiguring enables said print task to be printed on at least one remote device.

10. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said reconfiguring comprises reconfiguring said print task for cluster printing on printers remote to said local print system component.

11. (currently amended) A method of remote printing, said method comprising:

sending a print task to a local print system component;

determining characteristics of said print task;

determining the availability of a plurality of remote printing devices;

determining the capabilities of said plurality of remote printing devices;

selecting, with said local print system component, at least one of said remote printing devices that is suitable and available for printing said print task;

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reconfiguring said print task for printing on said selected at least one
remote printing device;

sending said reconfigured print task to a remote print system component;
and

sending said reconfigured print task from said remote print system
component to said selected at least one remote printing device for printing.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising prompting a
user for printing task preferences.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said
selected at least one remote printing device is different than a device originally selected
by a user.

14. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said determining
characteristics is accomplished via said local print system component.

15. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein said determining
characteristics is accomplished via said remote print system component.

16. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said reconfiguring
comprises job splitting among remote devices.

17. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said reconfiguring
comprises copy splitting among remote devices.

18. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said reconfiguring
comprises distribution of a print task to a cluster of remote printers.

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19. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said reconfiguring comprises changing the destination of a print task.

20. (currently amended) A method of remote printing, said method comprising:

sending a print task to a local print system component;

determining a device requirement of said print task;

sending said device requirement to a remote print system component;

checking, with said remote print system component, the availability of a plurality of printing devices in communication with said remote print system component;

determining, with said remote print system component, the capability of said plurality of printing devices to meet said device requirement;

automatically selecting at least one of said plurality of printing devices;

and

~~checking whether at least one remote device is suitable for printing said print task based on said device requirement and remote device availability, said checking being performed via said remote print system component; and~~

sending said print task to said selected at least one ~~suitable~~-remote printing device.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising reconfiguring said print task for said at least one suitable remote device.

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22. (currently amended) A system for remote printing, said system comprising:

a local print task receiver for receiving a print task from a local computing device;

a print task analyzer for determining a print task requirement;

a printer data acquirer for acquiring printer data for a plurality of printers;

a print task distributor for distributing said print task to a remote print system component; and

a printer selector for comparing printer data with said print task requirement and for selecting at least one of said plurality of printers based on said comparing.

~~a local computing device;~~

~~a local print system component;~~

~~a remote print system component;~~

~~at least one remote printing device;~~

~~wherein said system determines characteristics of a print task and said remote print system component searches for remote printing devices among said at least one remote printing device that are capable of printing said print task, and said system~~

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~~reconfigures said print task to utilize at least one of said capable printing devices and
sends said print task to said at least one of said capable printing devices.~~

23. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for performing functions within a print system component, said instructions comprising the acts of:

receiving a print task;

determining print task characteristics;

sending print task characteristic data to a remote print system component;

receiving printer data from said remote print system component, said printer data identifying printers capable of printing said print task;

selecting at least one of said printers capable of printing said print task;

reconfiguring said print task, if necessary, to accommodate printing on said selected at least one of said printers capable of printing said print task;

sending said print task to said remote print system component; and

sending said print task from said remote print system component to said printers capable of printing said print task.

24. (canceled)

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25. (currently amended) A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of reconfiguring a print task for remote printing using a print system component, said signal comprising instructions for:

receiving a print task;

determining print task characteristics;

sending print task characteristic data to a remote print system component;

receiving printer data from said remote print system component, said printer data identifying printers capable of printing said print task;

selecting at least one of said printers capable of printing said print task;

reconfiguring said print task, if necessary, to accommodate printing on said selected at least one of said printers capable of printing said print task; sending said print task to said remote print system component; and

sending said print task from said remote print system component to said printers capable of printing said print task.